



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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25 JANUARY 1966

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1. Vietnam

North Vietnamese propaganda is giving the impression that the regime expects air attacks to be resumed in the near future. An editorial in the North Vietnamese military newspaper yesterday urged the army and the people to "get everything ready for a protracted war and pay special attention to air defense." The paper said that the US is threatening to bomb industrial and residential areas and is flying reconnaissance missions to prepare for "escalated" attacks.

2. India-Pakistan

The first steps toward implementing the Tashkent agreements are being taken. The Indian and Pakistani army commanders have met in India and agreed on preliminary withdrawals of their troops along the line of confrontation. They are scheduled to meet again in Pakistan to plan further phased withdrawals. At the same time, prisoners of war are being exchanged.

These positive signs are being somewhat clouded, however, by the public statements on Kashmir which President Ayub evidently feels obliged to make. He stressed to the press last weekend that Tashkent has not altered Pakistan's stand on Kashmir nor deterred Kashmiris from continuing to "struggle for their rights."

3. India

The Communists in Kerala State are launching their expected agitation on the food issue. Together with other political groups in the state, they are planning mass demonstrations and a general strike to protest a recent reduction in the rice ration. This Friday has evidently been set for the beginning of the strike.

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4. Malaysia

The violence that erupted suddenly yesterday in Kuching, the Sarawak state capital, is another sign of the fragility of the British-created Malaysian federation. Wide-ranging street fighting between local Malays and soldiers from mainland Malaya developed from a minor incident. Crowds chanted antifederation slogans and "Malayans go home."

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5. Rhodesia

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Prime Minister Wilson to make some of the statements he did today in Parliament.

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Wilson seemed to go out of his way to stress that majority rule would not be permitted in Rhodesia until some time after the restoration of legal government.

6. Soviet Union

What Soviet geologists believe to be the richest gold deposit ever discovered in the country is now under development in Soviet Central Asia. They estimate it will produce some \$20 million worth of gold annually, about ten percent of present total Soviet production. It is likely to contribute significantly to an ultimate improvement in Moscow's strained gold reserve position.

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7. France

The "Ben Barka" affair continues to trouble De Gaulle both at home and in his relations with Morocco. Tonight, Mitterrand and other French opposition elements are staging a mass rally in Paris in an attempt to embarrass De Gaulle further.

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8. Italy

Hard bargaining among the coalition parties may delay the formation of a new government for as long as a month. The outcome seems likely to be a new center-left grouping under Aldo Moro, who was formally asked today to take on the task again.

Ex-Foreign Minister Fanfani, who was clearly involved in the political ambush that brought down the Moro government last week, may well emerge with greater influence.

9. Dominican Republic

The military officers are still meeting among themselves as they decide whether to continue their defiance of Garcia Godoy's order, now three weeks old, transferring the three chiefs abroad.

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Garcia Godoy is confident, however, that the same patient tactics he used in securing Caamano's voluntary departure will work in the case of the military chiefs.

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